

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows; this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this patent application.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 8, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of chrominance information of the block.
3. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 8, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of contrast of the block.
4. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 8, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of a level of detail within the block.
5. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 8, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of a desired bit rate.
6. (Cancelled)
7. **(Currently Amended)** The method as set forth in Claim 8, wherein dividing further comprises separating the digital image into Y , C_b and C_r components, and decimating further comprises decimating one of the C_b and C_r components for the subset of the plurality of blocks.
8. **(Currently Amended)** A method of decimating a digital image being represented by a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:

dividing the digital image into a plurality of frames, each frame including a plurality of blocks, wherein each block of the plurality of blocks may be represented as a plurality of elements within a plurality of columns (m) and rows (n);

filtering each element of each column ~~of the each~~ block, wherein for a given m^{th} column, weighting column $m-1$ 25%, weighting column m 50%, and weighting column $m+1$ 25%; and

decimating ~~selectively, certain ones of the~~ a subset of the plurality of blocks within a certain frame of the plurality of frames based upon predetermined criteria.

9. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 8, further comprising:
filtering each element of each row of the block, where given an n^{th} column, filtering further comprises weighting row $n-1$ 25%, weighting row n 50%, and weighting row $n+1$ 25%.
10. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 8, further comprising converting the digital image from pixel representation to frequency representation.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 18, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of chrominance information of the block.
13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 18, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of contrast of the block.
14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 18, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of a level of detail within the block.
15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 18, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of a desired bit rate.
16. (Cancelled)
17. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus as set forth in Claim 18, wherein the means for dividing further comprises means for separating the digital image into Y , C_b and C_r components, and the means for decimating further comprises means for decimating one of the C_b and C_r components for the subset of the plurality of blocks.
18. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for decimating a digital image being represented by a plurality of pixels, the apparatus comprising:
means for dividing the digital image into a plurality of frames, each frame including a plurality of blocks, wherein each block of the plurality of blocks may be represented as a plurality of elements within a plurality of columns (m) and rows (n);
means for filtering each element of each column of ~~the each~~ block, wherein for a given m^{th} column, ~~wherein the~~ means for filtering further comprises means for weighting column $m-1$

25%, column m 50%, and column $m+1$ 25%; and

means for ~~selectively decimating certain ones of the~~ a subset of the plurality of blocks within a certain frame of the plurality of frames based upon predetermined criteria.

19. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 18, means for decimating further comprising:

means for filtering each element of each row of the block, where given an n^{th} column, means for filtering further comprises means for weighting row $n-1$ 25%, row n 50%, and row $n+1$ 25%.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 18, further comprising means for converting the digital image from pixel representation to frequency representation.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of chrominance information of the block.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of contrast of the block.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of a level of detail within the block.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of a desired bit rate.

26. (Cancelled)

27. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the divider further comprises a separator, the separator configured to separate the digital image into Y , C_b and C_r components, and the decimator is further configured to decimate one of the C_b and C_r components for the subset of the plurality of blocks.

28. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for decimating a digital image being represented by a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:

a divider configured to divide the digital image into a plurality of frames, each frame including a plurality of blocks wherein each block of the plurality of blocks may be represented as a plurality of elements within a plurality of columns (m) and rows (n);

a filter configured to filter each element of each column of each block, wherein for a given m^{th} column, the filter further comprises a weighter configured to weight column $m-1$ 25%, column m 50%, and column $m+1$ 25%; and

~~a decimator configured to selectively decimate certain ones of the~~ a subset of the plurality of blocks within a certain frame of the plurality of frames based upon predetermined criteria, ~~said decimator comprising a filter configured to filter each element of each column of the block, wherein for a given m^{th} column, wherein the filter further comprises a weighter configured to weight column $m-1$ 25%, column m 50%, and column $m+1$ 25%.~~

29. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the filter is further configured to filter each element of each row of the block, where given an n^{th} column, the weighter is further configured to weight row $n-1$ 25%, row n 50%, and row $n+1$ 25%.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 28, further comprising a converter configured to convert the digital image from pixel representation to frequency representation.

31-35. (Cancelled)